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DULLES: A BIOGRAPHY OF ELEANOR, ALLEN, AND JOHN FOSTER DULLES AND THEIR FAMILY NETWORK. By *Leonard Mosley* (Dial Press, New York, 1978).

This book is an engaging, gossipy, slipshod, and frequently inaccurate piece of work.

The British author, Leonard Mosley, set out early in 1976 to write a biography on John Foster Dulles, Allen Welsh Dulles, and their sister Eleanor, and how their lives intertwined. He started with good credentials for the job: almost 20 volumes of biography, and other non-fiction largely dealing with Europe, the Middle East, and Far East. Three, including *Dulles*, have been Book-of-the-Month Club selections. When he began his latest work, he had just published *Lindbergh: A Biography* (Doubleday & Co., New York, 1976), which was on its way to being a best-seller and has recently appeared in paperback. He had dealt with intelligence work before in *The Cat and the Mice* (Harper and Brothers, New York, 1958) about John Eppler, a World War II spy in Cairo for General Rommel. Mosley also had extensive journalistic experience, including service as war correspondent for the London *Sunday Times*.

In this biography, Mosley has tried to entwine the lives of the three "Dullest," but more often it presents three parallel lines. The author will describe John Foster's and Eleanor's or Allen's activities at a given point in time, indicating where they may have touched each other. Thus, the book is somewhat chopped up by date sequences. In this review, I do not propose to discuss those portions of the book which deal with Mrs. Eleanor Dulles (who resumed her maiden name after the death of her husband), or with John Foster Dulles (although the latter's conversation with the President in the spring of 1960, described on p. 465, must have been difficult inasmuch as the Secretary died in May 1959). It should be noted, however, that Mosley thought most highly of the sister ("Readers of the narrative will have gathered that of all the Dulles clan, she is the one I most admire"). As a journalist, Mosley had often covered John Foster Dulles in various world capitals and had met him on occasion; Allen he scarcely knew. He spent much time with Mrs. Eleanor Dulles, interviewing her for this book, and many of the family details and much other material apparently came from her. Mrs. Dulles is very unhappy with some of the inaccurate results and has written Mosley telling him so. It is also obvious that Mosley had a considerable dislike for John Foster Dulles and is highly critical of most of his work as Secretary of State, praising only his negotiation of the Japanese Peace Treaty before he became Secretary. On Allen Dulles he is more ambivalent, showing neither the dislike he felt for the brother nor the high praise he bestowed on the sister. Beyond the foregoing remarks, I restrict my comments to the aspects of this volume I can best assess—those parts dealing with Allen Dulles and the Central Intelligence Agency.

It is very hard to summarize Mosley's view of CIA or of the accomplishments of Allen Dulles as DCI. One has the impression, from the author's use of Harold A. R. "Kim" Philby's letters to him (which Mosley includes as an appendix), that he is inclined to accept Philby's evaluation of Dulles as "bumbling" and "lazy"—not quite up to "the post he held;" certainly not as tough-minded as General Walter Bedell Smith, his predecessor as DCI. On the other hand, Mosley on occasion tends to cloak Allen Dulles, in operational matters, with an omniscience which may be as overdrawn on one side as Philby's derogatory comments are on the other. And, of course, Mosley

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is obsessed with Allen's apparent bias for covert action operations—partly because they have loomed so large recently in the media, and partly because the author has no real knowledge of Allen Dulles' work on the many clandestine collection operations in which CIA was engaged at the time under his supervision and direction as DCI (although the Berlin Tunnel is mentioned).

One also receives the impression, however, that were Mosley to have had an evening over drinks with Allen Dulles, he would have enjoyed it hugely. It is also obvious that Mosley much prefers the extroverted nature and more liberal views of Allen Dulles to those of this brother; John Foster Dulles always suffers by comparison in this book.

Happily, *Dulles* is not another volume in the field of "attack literature" against the Agency. Rather, in those portions dealing with CIA, it is almost a disconnected series of anecdotes as they pop up in a given time frame. The Agency also gets some praise for its role in U-2 and other overhead reconnaissance development. But this book is hardly detailed enough or accurate enough to be a good history of CIA in the Dulles regime. Those who are searching for a more definitive look at the Agency will have to await another day and author.

For source material, Mosley has relied in part on many personal interviews. He also made extensive use of the oral histories on file with the John Foster and Allen Welsh Dulles papers at the Princeton Library—oral histories made by former associates who knew the Dulles family well. Mosley's sourcing thus *appears* authoritative, but I must urge this readership to use the book with the greatest caution as far as facts, dates, and events are concerned. Of many of the personal interviews, the kindest thing one can say is that the author could not have been listening very well. There are errors in names, dates, and events, even though those who were present tried to describe them precisely. Some of these sources say they never made many of the statements attributed to them.

This reviewer speaks from personal experience; Mosley first came to see me on 6 April 1976, and over the next few months we met several times, including once at his villa in the south of France. I know I tried to use meticulous care in keeping various details straight as to time and events, but as shall become apparent in the rest of this review, identification by Mosley as a primary source for many things that appear in this book is at best a dubious honor which I and a number of my colleagues are anxious to disclaim. As I read the book, I found nothing classified that I or any of my fellow alumni told the author; in this connection we were very cautious; but Mosley fails to reciprocate in turn with equal caution in reporting what we did tell him. The high hopes which many of us had for the book have been sorely disappointed. As with other Mosley books, it is well written and sounds plausible. It will probably sell quite well. It doesn't deserve it.

Let us start with the "Prologue: The Man Upstairs." This describes a party allegedly given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dulles on Christmas Eve, 1968. In the "Source Notes," the information is attributed, *inter alia*, to Lawrence R. Houston, CIA's longtime General Counsel, and this reviewer. Mosley describes the arrival at the party of Larry Houston and his wife, who is quoted directly as asking Mrs. Allen (Clover) Dulles: "Where's Allen?" On being told that he was upstairs, she was disturbed and whispered to her husband, "I'm worried. I think you should go upstairs and find out what's happening to Allen." Mr. Houston went upstairs and allegedly found Allen deathly pale, covered with sweat, and half choking as if he could not swallow. Mr. Houston is then quoted as saying to his colleague James Hunt, whom he

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had brought upstairs with him, "He's sick all right." They dispersed the guests and called an ambulance to take Allen off to the hospital. Mrs. Dulles climbed into the ambulance, with Mrs. Houston running after her to give her a hat and coat. I do not know whether such a party actually took place or not, although I am cited as one of the sources; what I do know is that I was not there; my records show quite clearly that I was in Rye, New York, at that time. What is more important is that Larry Houston tells me neither he nor his wife were at the party, and, therefore, could not have said what they were quoted as having said. Mrs. Houston tells me she was never in the Dulles home on Q Street until after he died, and she never called him "Allen." James Hunt has told this reviewer he cannot recall whether there was such a party on that date, or, if so, whether he was there, but he is certain that the events and conversations described never happened at such an occasion.

At the top of page 10 in this "Prologue," Mosley describes Houston as having been present during World War II when they fished the body of one of his agents out of Salonika Harbor. Houston tells me this never happened, that as OSS Deputy Chief for the Middle East Theater he never "ran" any agents; that he has no recollection of any such person; and that he did not visit Salonika during the war. There are three more errors on page 9 of the "Prologue:" (a) The statement that "No one knows the head of KGB. . ." is, of course, arrant nonsense. (b) It is stated that after his retirement Allen Dulles had started "compiling anthologies of fictional spy stories." This is unfair; Dulles' first anthology was *Great True Spy Stories* (Harper and Row, New York, 1968); his *only* fictional anthology appeared a year later: *Great Spy Stories from Fiction* (Harper and Row, New York, 1969). (c) Mosley notes that Allen Dulles, after submitting his resignation to President Kennedy following the Bay of Pigs, "made a recommendation about his successor. It was ignored and another man chosen." Whether Allen Dulles made any such recommendation I do not know. What I do know is that President Kennedy proposed a name (Fowler Hamilton) for the directorship which was bruited about in the press, and that Allen Dulles had sufficient clout to kill this suggestion as totally unsuitable; it sank without further trace. The inaccuracies of the "Prologue" to *Dulles* give some indication of what is to be found in the rest of the book.

On pages 108-109, Mosley notes that General William J. Donovan "had risen from private to the rank of colonel in the famous Fighting Irish 69th Division. . ." in World War I; actually, Donovan entered service as a Captain in the New York National Guard. Mosley goes on to say that "Donovan, though a Republican, had always had close relations with Franklin D. Roosevelt." I do not think anybody who knew the situation would describe the relationship as "close." They had been Columbia Law School classmates, but Donovan always realized that the patrician Roosevelt had little use for the young man who had come from the wrong side of the tracks in Buffalo. Even when he became Director of OSS, Donovan's relations with the President were cordial but not "close"; he was never a member of the inner circle. FDR, although greatly appreciative of Donovan's support for the President's pre-Pearl Harbor foreign policy, was always a little leery of the Republican who had been the candidate to succeed him as Governor of New York in 1932 and who, he feared, might still have a post-war political career ahead of him. Nor, as Mosley suggests, was Donovan's former law partner John Lord O'Brien the main link between the President and the General; Donovan's chief sponsor in that regard was Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. Elsewhere on these same two pages Mosley describes a conversation between Donovan and Allen Dulles on the day in late June 1940, when Wendell Willkie received the Republican presidential nomination. According to Mosley, Donovan revealed to Allen Dulles that "he had just returned from Europe, where he

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had been on a secret mission for the President." Donovan did not even start on that mission until mid-July, so the conversation in that context could hardly have taken place in late June.

Writing of 1949 on page 222, Mosley states that "Not many people, even in the government, knew that Allen Dulles was part of the new Central Intelligence Agency. . . ." Dulles at the same time was *not* part of the CIA; he was still a partner in the law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell in New York. Dulles had, in fact, in company with two other New York lawyers, William H. Jackson and Mathias Correa, made a survey of CIA before the 1948 election, at the request of the President conveyed through the National Security Council, but he was not "part" of the CIA.

On page 239 Mosley says that President Truman "reluctantly agreed to the creation of the CIG . . ." and that Truman had to be persuaded to create the Central Intelligence Group and to go forward with its statutory base in the National Security Act of 1947. Actually, it was President Truman's insistent demands on the Secretaries of State, War, and Navy that led to the final creation of CIG and its subsequent statutory embodiment as CIA. Truman had abolished OSS by Executive Order effective 1 October 1945, but the only problem before him from then until he issued his CIG directive on 22 January 1946 was the form that CIG would ultimately take. It is almost certain that without Truman's insistence such an organization would not have been established at that time.

Another error perhaps worth noting is Mosley's statement that the German intelligence unit of General Gehlen "became an operating arm of OPC" (Page 274). The Gehlen organization would have been under the general control of our collection mechanism, then known as the Office of Special Operations—never OPC.

One also reads with interest Mosley's description of the ultimate recall of the British SIS liaison officer in Washington, "Kim" Philby. I am not aware of what, if any, role Allen Dulles may have played in Philby's recall following the defection of Burgess and Maclean in May 1951. In dealing with this matter Mosley notes (on page 284) that "Four months after Allen Dulles returned to the official world of espionage, William Jackson at last resigned . . ." and Dulles became DDCI. He adds that "Just before leaving, Jackson sent out an instruction that in the future Philby was to have certain information withheld from him. . . ." What is certain is that the British recalled Philby from Washington at the insistence of the then DCI, General Smith, and Philby actually returned to England within the first 10 days of June 1951. At that time Dulles was the DDP. He did not succeed Bill Jackson as DDCI until 3 August 1951—by which time any instructions about passing information to a long-gone Philby would have been moot.

Mosley devotes several pages (318-323) to CIA's occasional problems with Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and, in particular, my efforts on 9 July 1953 in my role as CIA's Legislative Counsel to protect William P. Bundy, a senior DDI official, from McCarthy's demands that Bundy should appear to testify on two hours notice that very morning before the Senator's subcommittee and explain his donation of \$400 for the defense of Alger Hiss. I remember describing these events meticulously to Mosley on at least two occasions, but some errors still crop up, e.g., Senator McCarthy's Permanent Investigations Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Government Operations becomes the Un-American Activities Committee, which existed only in the House of Representatives. Later Mosley, quoting Bundy, says that because of CIA's stand "nobody from the Executive Branch ever went before McCarthy again"—which

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is, of course, an error, as anyone knows who remembers the Army-McCarthy hearings of 1954.

On page 346 Mosley talks of Frank Wisner's travels (when he was DDP) including a boat trip into China and "a mysterious rendezvous in Prague." It is more than doubtful that Security would have allowed Wisner, with his clearances and knowledge, to go anywhere near China or Prague. Nor did Richard Bissell, then a Special Assistant to Director Dulles, have anything to do with the Berlin Tunnel operation, and Bissell has also assured this reviewer that he was not "in joint charge" of the Guatemala operation with Tracy Barnes.

In describing Allen Dulles' succession to General Smith as Director of Central Intelligence in 1953, Mosley has some events out of sequence, which gives this reviewer the opportunity to add an historical footnote. Mosley is quite correct in stating that there was some infighting over General Smith's successor between those favoring General Donovan—who wanted the job very much—and those who wanted the appointment of Dulles. President Eisenhower, before the administration changed hands, had announced his desire to appoint General Smith Under Secretary of State. What happened thereafter was told to me by John McCormack, then the Majority Leader and later Speaker of the House of Representatives. General Smith went to see President Truman and advised the President that General Eisenhower had offered him the position at State. Smith told Truman that if, as an official of the Truman Administration, his taking another position in the Eisenhower Administration would in any way cause embarrassment to President Truman, he would, of course, reject the offer immediately. President Truman told General Smith to accept. Truman later told this to McCormack, who in turn told me that there were tears in Truman's eyes when he told McCormack the story, so touched was the President at the loyalty displayed by General Smith.

Smith became Under Secretary on 9 February 1953, and it was only then that President Eisenhower had the DCI vacancy which permitted him to forward to the Senate the nomination of Allen Dulles. Dulles became the Director on 26 February. Among many others, he would have been horrified by Mosley's book.

Walter Pforzheimer